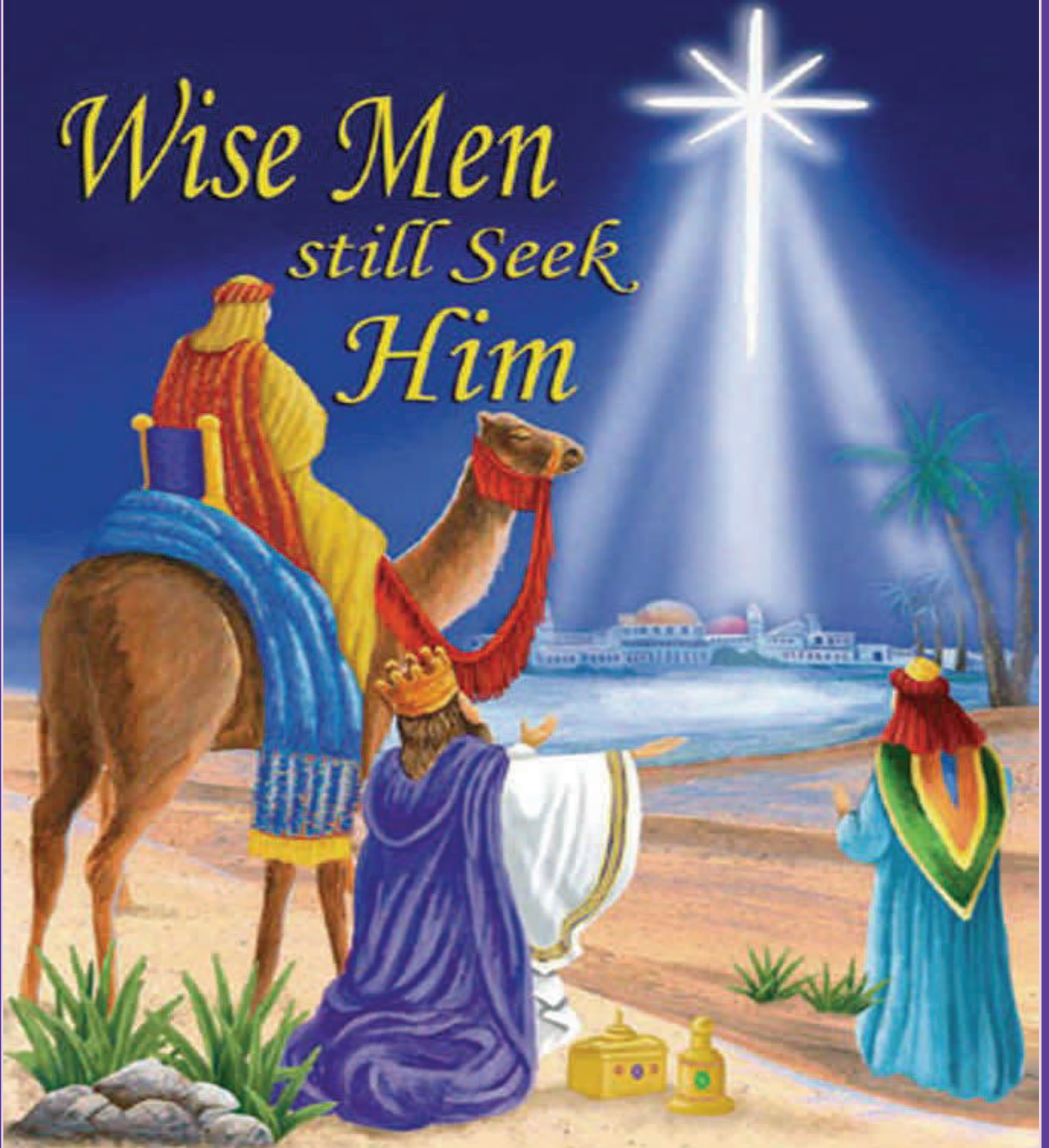


ST. LEO THE GREAT PARISH

WINTER 2021—2022 NEWSLETTER

*Wise Men
still Seek
Him*



BECAUSE OF YOU . . .

St. Leo's struggle and its gift is its poverty. In order to continue and expand its mission and ministry to the community and our immigrant and refugee parishioners, we need to reach out to others to help us through prayer, finances, and service. Through God's grace, it becomes mutual blessing.

AND SO WE THANK YOU ...



Many, many thanks to the numerous parishes, companies, individual donors, and volunteers who made our Annual Coat Drive and Toy and Clothing Drive such a huge success!!!



Many, many thanks to the Sisters of Charity and friends who helped brighten up our offices on "Let Your Service Shine" Day !!

Thanks to our courageous, dedicated volunteers who were able to make our annual Thanksgiving Meal Drive so delicious! Especially to those at St. Susanna for supplying the many turkeys to our families!



If you would like to volunteer for any of our upcoming projects (like cleaning up around the neighborhood or helping in the community garden in the Spring.) Please contact Amy at akleemanstleo@aol.com.



Many thanks to our Monthly Overhead Sponsor for December
Custom Electric Design, INC and Ohio Valley East

¡GRACIAS! MURAKOZE! THANK YOU!

We are deeply grateful for your continued and generous support. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you and your loved ones in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time. May our gracious God fill you with every blessing!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS . . .

From all of us here at St. Leo the Great, I wish you a very merry, happy, and blessed Christmas and New Year. Be assured of our continued prayers and love for you and your families. With a grateful heart that we are companions on the journey and conspirators to serving God's people and building the kingdom, I pray that the goodness you continue to offer our parish in support of our service and ministries will return to you a hundredfold.

As you share your blessings with us, we bless others. As you radiate Christ's love to us, you give birth to his presence among us, and we continue to share Christ's presence and love with all whom we meet. The light of Christ comes to our dark world. We thank you so much for accompanying us on mission and for following the light of God's grace in your lives. May his birth and his coming to dwell with you continue to dispel the darkest of nights and may you continue to grow in holiness and grace. May the new year be a time for seeing clearly how the Lord is bringing the good work in you to completion.

Just google St. Leo the Great Cincinnati and find our web page or FACEBOOK site. Check us out and celebrate with us how the Lord is making his presence known to us and to you. To quote St. Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, rejoice! Now and forever let us rejoice because the Lord is so near and close to all of us. God is with us now and forever. Let us rejoice!"

Beacons of Light: It is official. On Sunday, December 5, at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati, promulgated and made final the families of parishes, ending the first phase of Beacons of Light. Beacons of Light is the process of planning for the future to become parishes with renewed mission and purpose of evangelizing, building the kingdom of God, and actively living the faith. We are in the South Deanery and our family of parishes is St. Theresa; The Little Flower; St. Joseph, Ezzard Charles Drive; Holy Family; St. Leo the Great, and St Boniface. The next phase of Beacons of Light, the implementation of the new Families of Parishes, begins on July 1, 2022.

Until then, the priests personnel board with the archbishop, will be calling all priests and discussing assignments of pastors and parochial vicars for the new families of parishes. Assignments will be determined and named sometime in March and start July 1, 2022. The Comboni Missionaries will be providing a pastor and two parochial vicars for our family of parishes which will be determined and announced hopefully in March. These are challenging and exciting times. Archbishop Schnurr asks us to pray for him and he is praying for us. Throughout this process, let us pray for each other to be open to the Spirit and embrace the call to become new. Thank you so much for your prayers and participation so far.

Beacons of light calls for comprehensive change in church structure, management, and ministry to become vibrant parishes, from maintenance to mission, while facing a decline in active pastors, church attendance, people seeking initiation and the sacraments. The second phase of Beacons of Light includes training and formation for priests, deacons, and lay leaders. It also includes a Pastoral Planning Pathway Platform with access to guiding and resource documents and the sharing of best practices. Parish design teams, liaisons to the families and Archdiocesan planners, a Parish Vitality Newsletter are resources that are also available to the families.

This process of comprehensive change and growth must be faithfully supported with prayer and spiritual discernment. Please include Beacons of Light in your daily prayer. Lord, let your light shine on us and through us as we face the challenges of actively living our faith today. Make us new and renew your Church, now and always.

~~ Father Jim



Parish Social Action Team: Doing the “Work of Christmas”

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*



Some members of the Social Action Team at our December meeting.

These powerful words from Howard Thurman’s poem, “The Work of Christmas,” speak to the passionate spirit of St. Leo’s new Social Action Team. We began meeting in the Fall to consider how to more intentionally live out Catholic Social Teaching in our parish, and we already have some great initiatives happening! Our focus areas are Care for Creation, Affordable Housing, and Immigration. We want to do the liberating “work of Christmas” together, all year long.

In January, we’re going to begin the process of becoming a Laudato Si’ Parish through the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Office. Stay tuned for ways to get involved! Take a simple home sustainability assessment online or after Mass on Sunday, February 6 to help us reach our parish goal. Come to our workshop on native plants and *Laudato Si* on the weekend of April 2-3 (specific date and time TBA)! We’ll also be working on the garden in the Spring.

We have a subcommittee working with parishioners and community partners to locate affordable houses and secure support for parish families to become homeowners. We also participate in the Immigrant Dignity Coalition, where we stay in touch with ways to pray and advocate locally for justice for immigrants.

All are welcome to be part of this exciting new ministry! We meet once per month after the Sunday 10:30 am Mass, both in person and virtually. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 30. Contact Sr. Tracy Kemme at srtracystleo@gmail.com if you’d like to learn more about getting involved.

~~ Sister Tracy Kemme



St. Leo’s Prayer Wall is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God’s praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the community, as well as peacemakers and saints who have inspired us through the ages.

The Wall is a place for staff and volunteers, youth groups, community meetings, and for individuals who pass through our parking lot on the way to work, school, etc., to pray, reflect and pause. We invite you to share in this special way of prayer, joy, and thanksgiving. Praise God! God cares about every need in your life and knows what you need even before you ask Him for help. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time.

All prayer requests are held in strictest confidence. Send your prayer request to: Saint Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

Welcoming Change...

To live is to change and to keep growing is to change often. However, for most of us change is often something we prefer to avoid. The way things appear to be working for us and feels so comfortable and predictable that we seldom consider even attempting to do anything differently. Yet when we are willing to let go—even a little bit—of how things are now—we discover new relationships, opportunities, and growth.

Catholics in the Cincinnati Archdiocese are being invited to do just that, to move beyond their known church communities and join other parishes in forming a new and more vibrant family of faith—to do together what they could have not done alone. This is no easy task, but grounded in prayer and even a small willingness to try, this can happen. There will be some successes and missteps on the way and it won't happen overnight, but it is possible and can even be exciting.

Think of something you never thought you wanted to do—but reluctantly did—and ultimately were grateful you had made that choice. I remember the summer in college when I was working in a downtown clothing store. It was July and we were beginning to sell coats for the winter. We had a quota of coats to sell each week and I hadn't sold even one. I complained to my dad that I simply couldn't do it and he gave me advice I didn't want to hear. "Tell your boss you'll stay longer at no extra pay until you learn to do it." I balked at the idea but tried it

anyway and discovered I could meet my quota and be able to help people get set for the winter by buying coats when prices were lower. I learned something new about myself and found I was helping people in the process. This is not at all like parishes coming together, but it is an example of trying something I initially didn't want to do and experiencing a positive outcome.

Declining numbers of priests, birth rates and Mass attendance; underutilized buildings, many in need of repair; and priests stretched to the limit are some of the things that led Archbishop Schnurr to initiate the process called Beacons of Light to enable parishes to better utilize resources share the good news and become the vibrant communities of faith parishioners need them to be.

This is a multi-year process, but first steps are beginning now as families of parishes have been announced. In the coming months we will begin meeting with and learning more about the parishes in our family. Pastors for the new families will be assigned in July.

It's new and scary and some of us may be reluctant to get involved, but if we are willing to be open God will be with us every step of the way and great things can happen.
~~ Angela Anno

Our New Family:

St. Leo, saint-leo.org

Holy Family, Price Hill holyfamilycincinnati.org

St. Boniface, Northside, stbonifacecincinnati.com

St. Joseph, downtown Cincinnati stjosephcincinnati.org

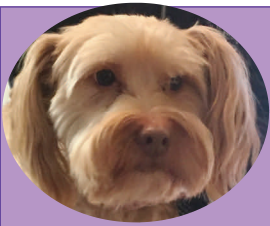
Little Flower, Mt. Airy www.littleflower-church.org



FOOD PANTRY IS BACK TO ALLOWING CLIENTS IN

Our Food Pantry Board and Volunteers decided to open up the pantry to allowing clients back in on December 1st! It has been a smooth and easy transition, all the clients appreciate not having to stand in the cold and are able to pick out the items that are needed for their families. We ask that all people entering the building to wear a mask, and there is only a maximum of 10 people in at a time. If you are able, please try to leave your children at home. For the most up to date rules/regulations please call the office at 513.921.1044 or check our website www.saint-leo.org/works-of-mercy





Jake's Jabbers

Words.

Like Snoopy, I usually hear Blah blah blah blah. A new year is the perfect time to select your own personal word that will be significant to you, one you try to live up to. Write it on a piece of paper rather than in your smart phone. What word will define 2022 for you? "Connection" was mine last year; this year it's "transformation" and here are ideas on how we can all transform!

Repetition. Ruts. Stagnancy. Hamster wheel. No more. Goodbye! Ciao, baby! This doesn't mean we need to compromise our dreams. Just take a step back, regroup, and try something different. See yourself in a different surrounding, especially mentally and emotionally.

Here's a real eye-opener: taking the time to learn from our own failures. OK. Sometimes having to unlearn something is much more difficult than learning something different. Want to transform something within? Be aware of your actions/reactions and realize what's really happening and the affect it has on anyone involved.

Here's another bone to chew on: sometimes it's plain ol' life that forces us to transform. Case-in-point: when was the last time you played solitaire with a real deck of cards, or Scrabble with the real game board?

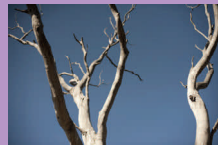
Ahh, yes...times are a-changing and we must also. The digital age. Technology. Smart cars. Smart TV's. KONG Extreme Goodie Bones. Avoid life's advancements passing you by. Adapt. Accept. Reshape. Evolve. Transform.



Yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks! What word be your word for 2022?

Jake's Jokes

What did the tree say after a long winter?
Oh, what a re-leaf!



What kind of cake does a snowman like?



One with thick icing!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ST. LEO PARISH AND COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION



Pastor: Rev. James R. Schutte

Address: 2573 Saint Leo Place,
Cincinnati, OH 45225

Phone: 513-921-1044

Fax: 513-921-8048

E-Mail: stleocinti@aol.com **Website:** www.saint-leo.org

Facebook: St. Leo The Great Catholic Church

St. Leo's YouTube Channel: StLeoTheGreatParish

Worship Schedule: Saturday 6:00pm Mass in Spanish;
Sunday Mass: 10:30am; Weekday Mass: Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
Thursday 7:00pm

FOOD PANTRY: At the corner of Carll & Baltimore

Serving Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Pantry Requirements: Serving North Fairmount, English Woods, Roll Hill Apts., and Millvale once every 30 days. See website: www.saint-leo.org or call (513-921-1044) to see if your street is covered. To meet St. Leo's Acts of Mercy pantry donor guidelines, current proof of residence (Duke or telephone bill), photo ID & Social Security Cards for all members of household must be presented at each visit. **Plan ahead: Children must be supervised while at our Food Pantry.**

To volunteer, or for more info, call 513-921-1044x22.

OFFICE CLOSED— December 24th, 27th, 31st
FOOD PANTRY CLOSED—December 22nd—January 3rd

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES



Cancelled during COVID until further notice.

COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

North Fairmount Community Center/

Referral Services: Linda Klems: 513-921-5889

Housing: 513-921-5889; Hopple Street Neighborhood Health and Community Center: 513-517-2700; Literacy Network: 513-621-7323, GED online class referral: CPS: 513-363-6100



ANGELS' ARMS STORE, 1882 Baltimore Ave. Accepting donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. Open Mon-Wed-Fri 9-3:00 and Tues-Thurs 10-3:00. **All Items Free!** Call for hours: 513-407-7902.

Visit Us!

St. Leo's website: www.Saint-Leo.org

Facebook: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

St. Leo's YouTube Channel: StLeoTheGreatParish



Enjoy the online edition with color photos!

Save the www.saint-leo.org site in your "favorites" list to visit often. Feel free to send corrections, updates, news and/or info to be included on the website to Amy Kleeman, Development Director, at akleemanstleo@aol.com. If you'd like to receive St. Leo's Newsletter, call 921-1044x22 and we'll add you (or anyone else you know) to the mailing list.

HOW YOU CAN HELP . . .



Treasure Chest

Treasure Chest Tickets are sold on a monthly basis at \$5.00 each.

- Winner based on Pick 3 played straight every day.
- Each \$100.00 prize will be sent in the mail.
- Get In On the Fun! To purchase Treasure Chest tickets, send \$5.00 per ticket by the first of the month to: St. Leo Treasure Chest, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225
- Volunteers Needed to help sell tickets!

October Winners: J.D. Himmelman, Janet Nienaber, Elaine Janis

November Winners: Pat Kichler, Anita Eckes, Linda Unterreiner, Sister Thelma Schlomer, Pat Schnittker, Marilyn Yachari, Dave and Mary Lou Hackman, Joseph Nienaber, Janet Nienaber



Many thanks to our St. Leo Food Pantry Monthly Overhead Sponsor for December
Custom Electric Design, INC and Ohio Valley East

In November the Food Pantry served **705 People in 221 Households, including 269 children, and 97 seniors**

NEEDS FOR JANUARY

Bar Soap, Body Lotion, Shave Cream, Dish Soap, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo, Razors, Deodorant, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Rice (Brown or White), Ketchup, Salad Dressing, Sugar (smaller bags), Mayo, Juice, Vegetable Soup

Reusable Tote Bags, Rolling Luggage, Pull Carts,

WISH LIST

Gas Cards for our 3 vans



Gift Cards for the continuing work and maintenance of the parish, and our Youth Group functions: Home Depot, Staples, Hobby Lobby, Kroger, Amazon Priceless!

Cash to Cover Operating Expenses is Essential!



¡GRACIAS! MURAKOZE! THANK YOU!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2nd and 16th—Middle and High School youth ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

January 9th and 30th—Children's Liturgy Meeting



January 19th—January 22nd—March For Life—Washington, D.C.

January 30th—Social Action Team Meeting after Mass until 1:00 p.m.

Easy Online Giving

Make a one-time donation, or set up a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual gift to be deducted from your banking account, or to charge your gift to your credit card:

Go to <http://saint-leo.org/DonateNow.aspx> And click on the Donate Now Button.



SHOP AMAZON SMILE, SUPPORT ST. LEO: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556>

SHOP KROGER'S AND SUPPORT ST. LEO: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> Enter St. Leo's #KC265 or search for St. Leo the Great Church.

iGive: Shop the sites you love and support St. Leo! Sounds easy? It is! Sign up at <http://www.igive.com/>



ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY OVERHEAD SPONSORSHIPS

We are seeking individuals and organizations that would be willing to "Sponsor" one month of our operating costs of \$2,300.00.

Sponsor's name will be recognized in the food pantry foyer, on St. Leo's website, in St. Leo's monthly newsletter and in St. Leo's weekly Sunday bulletin during their month; and if interested, the organization's members would be welcome to volunteer by working in the pantry serving our clients.

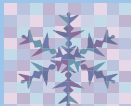

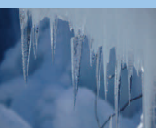

If interested, please contact Amy Kleeman at 513-921-1044 x 22, akleemanstleo@aol.com, or mail to: Amy Kleeman, St. Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225.

ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH
2573 ST. LEO PLACE AT BALTIMORE AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45225-1960

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY						1 -New Years Day Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/
2 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	3 Food Pantry Open	4 	5 Food Pantry Open	6 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	7 Food Pantry Open	8 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati
9 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	10 Food Pantry Open	11 	12 Food Pantry Open	13 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	14 Food Pantry Open	15 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati
16 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	17—Martin Luther King Day Food Pantry and Office CLOSED	18 	19 Food Pantry Open	20 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	21 Food Pantry Open	22 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati
23 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	24 Food Pantry Open	25 	26 Food Pantry Open	27 7:00pm MASS https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	28 Food Pantry Open	29 Mass in Spanish 6pm; https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati
30 Mass: 10:30am https:// www.facebook.com/ RCC-St-Leo-Church- Cincinnati	31 Food Pantry Open	